

REMARKS

Claims 2-15 remain in this application. Claims 1 and 16 are canceled.
Reconsideration of the application requested.

The allowance of claims 3, 5, 6, 10, and 12 is acknowledged with appreciation.

The amendments set forth above are made after consideration of the comments provided in sections 2 and 7-11 on pages 2 and 7-8 of the Office Action. It is respectfully submitted that currently amended claim 14 is in proper form, and that all of the claims remaining in this application now fully comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

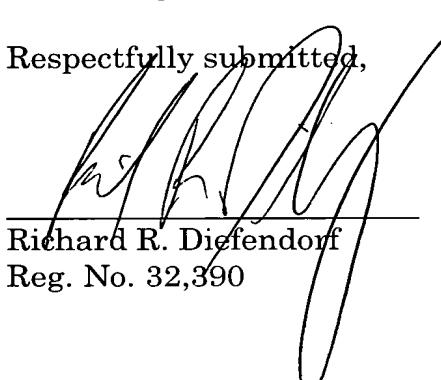
The claim amendments appearing above are the same as those forwarded for the Examiner's review in the facsimile communication of July 10, 2003, and are made following the discussion referred to in the Examiner-Initiated Interview Summary attached to the Office Action dated July 8, 2003.

Claims 2, 8, 9, and 15 now depend on claim 3 and are allowable along with claim 3.

Reconsideration of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) set forth in section 4 on pages 2-6 of the Office Action is requested. It is respectfully submitted that the known carbon panel devices discussed on pages 2-3 of the substitute specification and the four U.S. Patents mentioned, taken as a whole, do not suggest the subject matter presently defined by any of claims 4, 7, 11, and 13. No combination of the disclosures mentioned would result in a reinforcing device for supporting structures including a carbon panel having ends, each end being split into at least two

superimposed strips of approximately equal thickness, and end elements in which the ends of the carbon panel terminate as claim 4 requires. No combination of these disclosures would result in such a reinforcing device having a carbon panel, at least one end of which is split into at least two strips, and a parallelepiped end element, made of metal or plastic, in which the end terminates and having slots to receive the strips as claim 7 defines. Finally, no combination of the disclosures mentioned would result in a supporting element reinforcing method comprising the "cutting," "separating," "bringing," and "gluing" operations specifically recited in either claim 11 or claim 13. It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that each of claims 4, 7, 11, and 13 is patentable in its present form. Claim 14 depends on claim 11 and is patentable as well.

It is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions after considering this Reply, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: January 8, 2004

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